

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAN JO 01037 141747Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 /059 W

-----141805Z 026460 /46

P R 141659Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6692

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1037

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: COSTA RICA PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

1. SUMMARY: COSTA RICA'S FIRST PRIMARY ELECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE MARCH 13. NEITHER CHARGES OF FRAUD NOR INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE WERE REPORTED. HALF OF VOTES ARE COUNTED. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN FEB., 1978 ELECTION FOR PLN WILL BE EX-PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL LUIS ALBERTO MONGE, LEADER OF PROGRESSIVE WING OF GOVERNMENT PARTY; MONGE OBTAINED 73 PERCENT OF HIS PARTY'S VOTE. OPPOSITION UNITY WINNER IS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT RODRIGO CARAZO, WHO OBTAINED 56NPERCENT OF VOTE AGAINST BUSINESSMAN MIGUEL BARZUNA, WHO POLLED 44 PERCENT. BOTH LOSING CANDIDATES GRACEFULLY CONCEDED DEFEAT EVENING MARCH 13. END SUMMARY.

2. COSTA RICA'S FIRST EVER PRIMARY ELECTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT MARCH 13 IN FESTIVE, ORDERLY, CIVIC-MINDED ATMOSPHERE. AS IS TRADITIONALLY THE CASE IN COSTA RICA, THERE WERE NO NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAN JO 01037 141747Z

OF VIOLENCE, NOR WERE THERE CHARGES OF FRAUD IN EITHER GOVERNMENT PARTY (PLN) OR OPPOSITION UNION RACE.

3. AS EXPECTED IN GOVERNMENT PARTY (PLN), EX-PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL LUIS ALBERTO MONGE TROUNCED HIS ONLY RIVAL, EX-MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HERNAN GARRON.

RESULTS AS OF MIDNIGHT, MARCH 13, WITH 50 PERCENT OF VOTES COUNTED, GAVE MONGE 73 PERCENT OF THE VOTE (69,040) TO GARRON'S 27 PERCENT (25,307). MONGE IS CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE "PROGRESSIVE" WING OF THE PLN; GARRON IS IN THE CENTER OF THE GOVERNMENT PARTY.

4. THE OPPOSITION UNION RACE, IN WHICH A NUMBER OF SMALL PARTIES FORMED COALITIONS BEHIND TWO CANDIDATES MUCH WAS CLOSER. WITH HALF OF THE VOTES COUNTED AS OF MIDNIGHT, RODRIGO CARAZO, WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT, HAD 56 PERCENT OF THE VOTE (33,247). MIGUEL BARZUNA, A BUSINESSMAN WHO WAS SUPPORTED BY THE CENTER-RIGHT PLUS PART OF THE TRADITIONAL CALDERONISTA OPPOSITION, OBTAINED 44 PERCENT (26,229).

5. THE DEFEATED CANDIDATES CAPITULATED EARLY AFTER THE POLLS CLOSED. EACH PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR THE WINNING CANDIDATE AND PROMISED TO WORK IN UNITY FOR PARTY VICTORY IN THE FEBRUARY, 1978 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

6. COMMENT: COSTA RICANS ARE JUSTLY PROUD OF THE WAY THEIR FIRST PRIMARY ELECTIONS HAVE TURNED OUT. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS PEACEFUL. THE PRIMARY BATTLE WAS HARD FOUGHT AND WELL ORGANIZED. THE TURNOUT WAS GOOD--MAYBE 30 PERCENT OF THE ELIGIBLE ELECTORATE. ALTHOUGH PARTISAN SPIRIT WAS HIGH, THE PREVAILING FEELING WAS OF FAIR PLAY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAN JO 01037 141747Z

7. THE MONGE VICTORY WAS NOT UNEXPECTED; VERY FEW COSTA RICANS THOUGHT HERNAN GARRON COULD WIN THIS ELECTION AGAINST A CANDIDATE WHO COMPLETELY DOMINATED HIS PARTY'S MACHINERY. ON THE OPPOSITION SIDE, TIGHT PARTY ORGANIZATION, A MULTITUDE OF VOLUNTEERS (MOST OF THEM YOUNG), AND A HARD HITTING, ATTRACTIVE CANDIDATE WERE THE KEYS TO CARAZO'S SUCCESS. BARZUNA'S CAMPAIGN, ALTHOUGH IT SPENT MORE MONEY, WAS SIMPLY UNABLE TO GET OUT THE VOTE.  
KILDAY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SANJO01037  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770087-0310  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SAN JOSE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770362/aaaaccsr.tel  
**Line Count:** 107  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 2c4f7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3117205  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COSTA RICA PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, PINT, CS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2c4f7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009